

Service Area Strategic Plan

Department of Social Services (765)

Service Area 10 of 33

Food Stamp Employment and Training (FSET) Employment Services (765 452 13)

Description

This service area is responsible for the implementation of the Food Stamp Employment and Training Program (FSET) which provides workforce services to individuals participating in the Commonwealth's largest nutrition assistance program, the Food Stamp Program. Workforce services provided by the FSET program include job readiness classes, job search assistance, education, training, and community work experience (internships). These services are offered to participants to assist them in attaining unsubsidized employment and attain or move toward self-sufficiency.

Background Information

Mission Alignment and Authority

- *Describe how this service supports the agency mission*

By helping individuals gain skills and find employment, the FSET program assists low-income families in overcoming poverty and builds strong futures for themselves, their families, and their communities.

- *Describe the Statutory Authority of this Service*

The FSET program is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture under federal statutory authority by virtue of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended by the 2002 Farm Bill.

Customers

| Agency Customer Group | Customer | Customers served annually | Potential annual customers |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Governmental Entities (served unknown; potential unlimited) | Local Departments of Social Services | 23 | 120 |
| Individuals, Children and Families (served unknown; potential unlimited) | Low-income individuals and families | 7,605 | 10,000 |

Anticipated Changes To Agency Customer Base

The Food Stamp program has experienced continual caseload growth in the last three years resulting from increases in the number of Virginians living in poverty and aggressive outreach activities to enroll eligible individuals into the Food Stamp Program. Higher numbers of Food Stamp recipients lead to increases in FSET participation. Many Food Stamp participants may voluntarily participate in this service, further increasing the customer base. The majority of FSET participants are currently required to participate as a condition of their continued receipt of nutrition assistance; however, any Food Stamp participant may volunteer to participate. There is one less local department of social services offering services in FY 2008.

Partners

| Partner | Description |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Local Departments of Social Services | |
| Local workforce service providers | |
| State agencies | |

Products and Services

- *Factors Impacting the Products and/or Services:*

As a result of the elimination of the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement via the 2002 Farm Bill and limited federal funding, only 23 local departments of social services covering 26 localities operate a formal FSET program. Limited funding and stringent regulations around sanctioning and participation make the implementation of the program by local departments of social services difficult given the modest amount of funding available.

- *Anticipated Changes to the Products and/or Services*

In order to expand program services to more Food Stamp participants, statewide initiatives are being developed with partner agencies that can contribute match to draw down federal funds.

- *Listing of Products and/or Services*
 - Services that promote sufficiency

Finance

- *Financial Overview*

This Food Stamp Employment and Training (FSET) program is 100% federally funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. There are also 50/50 matching federal funds available to match state or local funds.

- *Financial Breakdown*

| | Fiscal Year 2009 | | Fiscal Year 2010 | |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| | General Fund | Nongeneral Fund | General Fund | Nongeneral Fund |
| Base Budget | \$417 | \$2,064,508 | \$417 | \$2,064,508 |
| Change To Base | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Service Area Total | \$417 | \$2,064,508 | \$417 | \$2,064,508 |

Service Area Objectives

- Assist low-income Virginians in obtaining employment by provide high quality workforce services to Food Stamp participants

Objective Description

The FSET Program offers, as appropriate, the following components: job search assistance, basic employment skills training, education, training, and community work experience (internships) to help Food Stamp participants find employment.

Alignment to Agency Goals

- Agency Goal: Maximize the economic independence, safety and stability of individuals and families

Comment: This objective aligns with the Council on Virginia's Future Long-Term goals: to "Inspire and support Virginians toward healthy lives and strong and resilient families" and "elevate the levels of educational preparedness and attainment of our citizens".

Objective Strategies

- Expand workforce services through partnering with other state agencies and local workforce providers including One Stop Career Centers
- Provide technical assistance and training

Objective Measures

- Number of Food Stamp participants receiving workforce services

Governor's Key:

No

Measure Type:

Outcome

Measure Frequency:

Annual

Frequency Comment: Number of FS recipients receiving workforce services

Measure Baseline: 7,123 Food Stamp participants received workforce services in SFY 2005

Measure Target: 7,605 Food Stamp participants will receive workforce services by the end of SFY 2010

Data Source and Calculation: Source -- monthly reports from local departments of social services (LDSS) and partner organizations; calculation – total number of individuals participating in a workforce activity